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PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 03327.2259-00

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
Akihiro HIKICHI et al. ) Group Art Unit: 1771  
Application No.: 09/901,722 ) Examiner: N.L. Torres-Velazquez  
Filed: July 11, 2001 ) Confirmation No.: 7732  
For: NON-ASBESTOS FRICTION MATERIAL )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION**

This Reply is filed in response to the Office Action mailed March 17, 2006. Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.